

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 304166
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 /021 R

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CU/EE:LBAUMAN
USIA/IEU:SDEMITZ

----- 017154 /74-61

P 152119Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, OEXC, UR, US

SUBJECT: PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS FROM THE CENTER FOR FOREIGN
STUDY

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED CALL DECEMBER 14 FROM MRS. GAIL OF THE CENTER FOR FOREIGN STUDY (CFS) IN ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CFS HAS SET UP WITH THE PUSHKIN INSTITUTE. MRS. GAIL TRAVELLED TO MOSCOW LAST SUMMER TO ARRANGE A SEMESTER OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE STUDY FOR APPROXIMATELY TWELVE U.S. STUDENTS ANNUALLY AT THE INSTITUTE. SHE AND OTHERS OF CFS TALKED WITH BAZHANOV AND KOSTAMAROV AT PUSHKIN, WHO "ENTHUSIASTICALLY, GAVE VERBAL OK FOR CFS PROGRAM. STRICTLY SPEAKING, PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE AN EXCHANGE, SINCE NO SOVIETS ARE COMING TO THE US, BUT A UNILATERAL PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT WITH CFS PAYING PUSHKIN TO TAKE ITS SCHOLARS.

2. THIS FALL, AFTER HAVING RECEIVED NO FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM PUSHKIN, MRS. GAIL SAID CFS ASKED ACAO ROBERT MILLER TO GET IN TOUCH WITH KOSTAMAROV. A MR. SOKHIN, WHO HAD APPARENTLY REPLACED KOSTAMAROV, REQUESTED A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE GIVING HIS CONSENT TO THE STUDY PROGRAM. THESE WERE SUPPLIED, BUT NOW CFS HAS BEEN INFORMED IT NEEDS

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PAGE 02 STATE 304166

AN OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IN THIS CONNECTION, SOKHIN EXPRESSED SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM FELL UNDER THE OFFICIAL US-SOVIET GENERAL AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL RELATIONS. MRS. GAIL HAS REQUESTED A LETTER FROM STATE TO MEET SOKHIN'S REQUIREMENTS.

3. WE ARE BEMUSED (BUT NOT SURPRISED) AT THE FOREGOING TALE OF APPARENT SOVIET FOOT-DRAGGING AND RED TAPE. THE OBJECT OF THE CFS PROGRAM IS CLEARLY TO ENHANCE A US RUSSIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM, A GOAL WHICH THE SOVIETS REGULARLY PRESS US TO PURSUE. WITH RESPECT TO APPLICATION OF 1973 GENERAL AGREEMENT, THE BROAD TEXT OF ARTICLE IV OBVIOUSLY PERTAINS. FINALLY, WE WOULD THINK ANY REQUISITE LETTER FOR THE RECORD COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY.

4. WE REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS EASILY ARISE IN SUCH SITUATIONS AND CFS AND PUSHKIN MAY NOT HAVE CLEARLY COMMUNICATED TO EACH OTHER THE DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS NECESSARY. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE, US STUDENT EXCHANGE, LANGUAGE & AREA TRAINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE304166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASTEFAN:EM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760462-0346
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761240/aaaabiat.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS FROM THE CENTER FOR FOREIGN STUDY
TAGS: SEDU, OEXC, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006